

**KOSCIUSKO COUNTY
DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING
MARCH 27, 2025**

PRESENT

CARY GRONINGER - CHAIRMAN
JIM SCOTT
DENNIS DARR
STEVE METZGER

ALSO PRESENT

JIM MOYER – SURVEYOR
SANDY ANGEL – DRAINAGE BOARD SECRETARY
AMY HURD – GIS TECHNICIAN

CARY GRONINGER – CHAIRMAN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER.

FEBRUARY MINUTES/CLAIMS

STEVE METZGER MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE CLAIMS AND MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY AS PRESENTED SUBJECT TO ANY AND ALL AUDITS. JIM SCOTT SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

WORK ORDER LIST/CLAIMS

JIM MOYER STATED WE ARE UP TO NINETY-NINE WORK ORDERS FOR THIS YEAR. MOST OF THEM ARE BRUSH CONTROL. THESE WORK ORDERS HAVE BEEN SENT OUT AND CONTRACTORS WILL BE STARTING IN JUNE. PROPERTY OWNER NOTICES WILL BE SENT OUT MID-APRIL. THERE ARE A FEW 2024 WORK ORDERS STILL OUT, BUT WE ARE WORKING ON GETTING THOSE TAKEN CARE OF. THE THREE EMERGENCY WORK ORDERS ARE THE H.C. KELLY, TURKEY CREEK AND POLE RUN. THERE IS A LOG JAM ON TURKEY CREEK NEAR SYRACUSE. ON POLE RUN DOWNSTREAM OF THE TILE RECENTLY REPLACED IN ATWOOD AT THE RAILROAD, THE PIPE GOES FROM FIFTEEN INCH TO THIRTY-SIX INCH AND BACK DOWN TO FIFTEEN INCHES. MOYER BELIEVES THERE IS A JAM IN THOSE FITTINGS. DEBRIS IS BEING TRAPPED IN THE FITTING AND THEY WILL BE JETTING THAT OUT. THE DITCH IS WORKING, BUT SLOWLY.

OLD BUSINESS

AP JONES

JIM MOYER PRESENTED A SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY ON THIS DRAIN. IN 2017, WE DISCUSSED RAISING THE MAINTENANCE WITH ELKHART COUNTY. AT ONE POINT ELKHART COUNTY HAD WAIVED THEIR RIGHTS TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS HEARING, BUT WE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THEM DATED MARCH 11, 2025 STATING THEY WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN THE ASSESSMENT HEARING. MOYER WOULD LIKE TO ABANDON THE UPPER SECTION OF THIS TILE IN ELKHART COUNTY THAT HAS BEEN PLACED IN A WETLAND PROGRAM. THE ELKHART SURVEYOR IS SUPPORTIVE OF THIS, BUT THEIR BOARD WANTS TO BE PART OF THE HEARING WHEN THIS IS DISCUSSED. MOYER WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A JOINT MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT HEARING WITH ELKHART COUNTY ON MAY 22, 2025. IN JANUARY OF 2017, A RATE OF \$4 PER ACRE WITH A \$25 MINIMUM WAS APPROVED FOR ADVERTISING BY THE BOARD. AT THAT RATE THE ANNUAL COLLECTION WOULD BE \$9,700, WHICH IS MORE THAN ADEQUATE FOR WHAT WE HAVE PLANNED. MOYER WOULD LIKE TO REESTABLISH THAT MOTION. JIM SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO ADVERTISE A RATE OF \$4 PER ACRE WITH A \$25 MINIMUM FOR A JOINT

BOARD HEARING ON MAY 22, 2025. STEVE METZGER SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR. THIS WILL BE THE SAME DATE AS THE REGULAR MONTHLY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING IN MAY. THE JOINT BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD FIRST.

ENOCH FELKNER/TURKEY CREEK WORK ORDER 2025-012 UPDATE

JIM MOYER INFORMED THE BOARD THAT MIKE KOLESIAK WAS DOING THE DEBRUSHING ON THIS. KOLESIAK GOT WITHIN 500' OF COMPLETION AND HIT A CONCRETE FENCE POST AND DAMAGED HIS EQUIPMENT. THE PROJECT IS CURRENTLY ON HOLD. HE IS WORKING ON GETTING RENTAL EQUIPMENT TO COMPLETE THE WORK. MOYER SAID HE TOLD KOLESIAK HE COULD SUBMIT A CLAIM FOR THE WORK HE HAS DONE TO THIS POINT. THERE IS A DEADLINE OF JULY 1, 2025 TO COMPLETE THE JOB, AND MOYER FEELS KOLESIAK SHOULD BE ABLE TO COMPLETE THE WORK BY THEN.

RUSSELL WARNER HEARING 4/24/25

JIM MOYER SPOKE TO THE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REGARDING THE RUSSELL WARNER DRAIN. THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE IT TO REMAIN A REGULATED DRAIN. MOYER WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE THIS TO A MAINTENANCE NON-REPAYABLE DRAIN. IT IS AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT LOCATION TO DO WORK, AND THE MAJORITY OF THE TILE IS IN THE COUNTY RIGHT-OF-WAY. MOYER FEELS WE CAN ACCOMPLISH WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IF WE ELIMINATE THE ASSESSMENT, WHICH CURRENTLY COLLECTS \$446 PER YEAR. WE WOULD STILL HAVE THE \$1,500 A YEAR ALLOWED FOR MAINTENANCE NON-REPAYABLE DRAINS AND THE COUNTY WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WORK IN THEIR RIGHT-OF-WAY. DENNIS DARR SAID HE WAS CONTACTED BY A LANDOWNER WHO SAID THE DRAIN DOESN'T WORK BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE DUMPING LEAVES IN THE CATCH BASIN AND THE PIPE UNDER STATE ROAD 13 IS PLUGGED. MOYER SAYS THE CATCH BASIN DOESN'T WORK DUE TO LEAVES AND LITTER PILED ON IT. MOYER SAID THE DRAIN STOPS AT THE REAR OF THE LOTS OFF WACO DRIVE AND DOES NOT GO TO SR 13. MOYER SAID HE COULD WORK WITH THE STATE HIGHWAY TO GET THE WATER MOVING THROUGH THE CULVERTS. MOYER WOULD LIKE TO CALL A PUBLIC HEARING TO REDUCE THE ASSESSMENT TO ZERO AND MAKE THIS A MAINTENANCE NON-REPAYABLE DRAIN. JIM SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING ON APRIL 24, 2025 TO ELIMINATE THE ASSESSMENT ON THIS DRAIN AND MAKE IT A MAINTENANCE NON-REPAYABLE DRAIN. STEVE METZGER SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

VANDERMARK HEARING 4/24/25

JIM MOYER SAID HEARING NOTICES HAVE BEEN MAILED OUT TO THESE PROPERTY OWNERS. THIS DRAIN COLLECTS \$122 IN A YEAR AND THE FOUR-YEAR BALANCE IS \$488. THIS TILE DOES NOT WORK AND THE ASSESSMENT IS NOT ENOUGH TO MAINTAIN IT. HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING TO ELIMINATE THE ASSESSMENT. IT COULD BE VACATED OR MADE A MAINTENANCE NON-REPAYABLE DRAIN. \$1,500 WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH TO DEBRUSH THIS TILE OR DIG A NEW DRAIN ALONG THE OLD ONE. CARY GRONINGER ASKED IF THE PROPERTY OWNERS HAVE A RIGHT TO DRAINAGE IF THIS DRAIN IS ELIMINATED. MOYER SAID THE PROPERTY OWNERS COULD PETITION FOR SOMETHING TO DRAIN THIS AREA. WE WOULD THEN DESIGN A NEW DRAINAGE FEATURE AND THE PROPERTY OWNERS WOULD HAVE TO PAY FOR IT. JIM SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO HAVE A HEARING ON APRIL 24, 2025 TO ELIMINATE THE ASSESSMENT ON THIS DRAIN. DENNIS DARR SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL WERE IN FAVOR. AS A LANDOWNER IN THE WATERSHED, CARY GRONINGER ABSTAINED.

NEW BUSINESS

CAUFFMAN WORK ORDER 2024-054

JIM MOYER SAID THE CAUFFMAN WAS DEBRUSHED IN 2024 BY MIKE KOLESIAK FROM THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF RICK PARKER'S PROPERTY AND ACROSS CR 400 W. WEST OF 400 W THE SILT IN THE BOTTOM OF THE DITCH IS HOLDING WATER BACK ON TILES ON RICK PARKER'S PROPERTY EAST OF 400 W. RICK PARKER HAS ASKED THAT WE DIP THE BOTTOM OF THE DITCH IN THE PORTION THAT WAS DEBRUSHED WEST OF 400. MOYER ASKED KOLESIAK FOR A QUOTE TO CLEAN THIS PORTION. IF WE GO 600 FEET DOWNSTREAM OF THE CULVERT OF 400 WEST, IT WOULD BE \$5,700. IT IS A WETLAND WHICH REQUIRES KOLESIAK HAS TO LOAD EVERYTHING AND TAKE IT OVER TO RICK PARKER'S HIGHER GROUND. PARKER FEELS THAT IS NOT ENOUGH. HE THINKS THE ENTIRE PORTION THAT WAS DEBRUSHED WEST OF 400 W NEEDS TO BE DIPPED. KOLESIAK'S ESTIMATE TO DO THAT IS \$14,000. THE CAUFFMAN IS CURRENTLY IN DEBT \$6,000. IT COLLECTS \$22,000 A YEAR. JIM SCOTT ASKED IF WE SHOULD CONSIDER RAISING THE RATES ON THIS DRAIN. MOYER SAID THE LAST HEARING WAS IN 2002 AND IT WAS RAISED IN 2008. THERE IS MORE WORK TO BE DONE ON THIS DRAIN. GRONINGER ASKED IF THIS WORK WAS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY FOR THIS DRAIN. MOYER FELT IT WAS, AND IT MAKES SENSE TO DO IT NOW SINCE IT WAS RECENTLY DEBRUSHED. THE CONSENSUS WAS THAT WE SHOULD HAVE A HEARING. MOYER IS TO LOOK AT OTHER NEEDED HEARINGS TO DECIDE WHEN A HEARING FOR THE CAUFFMAN SHOULD BE DONE. DENNIS DARR MADE A MOTION TO PROCEED WITH THE \$14,000 DIPPING. STEVE METZGER SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

VARIANCE DISCUSSION – FLUKE HANSON/CHILDS BUILDERS

JIM MOYER STATED THERE WAS A PERSON INTERESTED IN BUILDING ON THIS LOT WITH A DRAINAGE EASEMENT. HE LOOKED CLOSER AT THE PLAT FOR THIS PROPERTY, AND THE EASEMENT HAD ALREADY BEEN REDUCED TO FORTY FEET BY THE DRAINAGE BOARD TO ALLOW LOTS TO BE SELLABLE. LOOKING AT THE SITE PLAN FOR THE PROPOSED BUILDING, THE HOUSE WOULD BE NO CLOSER THAN FIFTY-FIVE FEET AND NOT ENCROACH ON THIS EASEMENT. NO VARIANCE WILL BE NEEDED.

VARIANCE DISCUSSION – WALNUT CREEK/IGNASIAK

JIM MOYER SAID THE CURRENT OWNER OF THIS PROPERTY IS IGNASIAK. THE PREVIOUS OWNERS CLEANED THE DRAINAGE DITCH ALONG WALNUT CREEK AND BUILT A POND. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF A VARIANCE FROM THE DRAINAGE BOARD OR OF ANY PERMIT FROM AREA PLANNING TO BUILD THIS POND. THE CURRENT PROPERTY OWNER CLEANED THE POND AND THEN AREA PLANNING CONTACTING THEM FOR HAVING A POND WITHOUT A PERMIT. MOYER SAID THE DITCH DOESN'T NEED ANY WORK IN THAT AREA AND THERE IS PLENTY OF ROOM ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE DITCH. AREA PLANNING IS HAVING THEM GET A PERMIT AFTER THE FACT, AND THE OWNERS HAVE TO PAY A FINE. MOYER IS ASKING THE BOARD TO GRANT A VARIANCE AFTER THE FACT TO REDUCE THE SETBACK TO THE EXISTING THIRTY FEET ALONG THE LENGTH OF THE POND. STEVE METZGER MADE A MOTION TO GRANT THE VARIANCE. DENNIS DARR SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

JOE IRWIN RESIGNATION

JOE IRWIN WAS PRESENT. HE RECENTLY WAS CHOSEN TO FILL A KOSCIUSKO COUNTY COUNCIL VACANCY AND FORMALLY RESIGNED HIS DRAINAGE BOARD POSITION. HE THANKED THE BOARD FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE. JIM MOYER ASKED THE BOARD FOR THEIR INPUT ON A REPLACEMENT FOR JOE. HE HAS BEEN GIVEN THE NAMES OF TODD SMITH/WARSAW, DAVID LASH/MENTONE, BRIAN ROMINE/MENTONE AND CHAD DIPPON/MILFORD AS POSSIBLE REPLACEMENTS. HE SAID THAT IN THE PAST THE SURVEYOR HAS CONTACTED INDIVIDUALS FOR DRAINAGE BOARD POSITIONS AND THEN

TAKEN THAT PERSON TO THE COMMISSIONERS FOR APPROVAL. HE LIKES THE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCE OF BOARD MEMBERS. HE ASKED THE BOARD IF THEY FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCE, OR IF WE SHOULD LOOK TO OTHER AREAS. JOE IRWIN MENTIONED THE AREA REPRESENTED SHOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED. MOYER ASKED THAT THE BOARD GET BACK TO HIM WITH SOME INPUT ON WHO THEY FEEL WOULD BE THE BEST CANDIDATE OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS. AFTER REVIEWING INPUT RECEIVED, MOYER WILL PUT TOGETHER A LETTER RECOMMENDING A NEW BOARD MEMBER FOR ALL OF THEM TO SIGN. HE WILL THEN TAKE THAT RECOMMENDATION TO THE COMMISSIONERS. JIM SCOTT ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY LIMITATIONS BASED ON OTHER BOARD MEMBERSHIP. MOYER SAID THEY CAN'T BE AN ELECTED OFFICIAL. JIM SCOTT ASKED ABOUT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS. MOYER SAID HE WOULD CHECK THAT OUT. DAVID LASH IS ON THE TIPPECANOE SCHOOL BOARD.

PRELIMINARY HEARING AGENDA

JIM MOYER PRESENTED A LIST OF PROPOSED UPCOMING HEARINGS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR. THE RUSSELL WARNER AND VANDERMARK ARE IN APRIL. THE AP JONES HEARING WILL BE IN MAY WITH DISCUSSION OF THE LEVI EATON. PLANS ARE TO HAVE SOME KIND OF HEARING EVERY MONTH. HE WILL ADVISE THE BOARD A MONTH OR TWO IN ADVANCE OF SPECIFICS OF SCHEDULING.

H.C. KELLY UPDATE

JIM MOYER SAID THE H.C. KELLY ON THE EAST SIDE OF TOWN BY OLD 30 IS CURRENTLY CLOSED. THERE IS A PLUG IN THE TILE. THE CITY TRIED TO JET THE PLUG OUT, BUT IT ONLY MOVED IT. WATER IS BACKED UP TO THE EDGE OF THE PAVEMENT ON OLD 30 CREATING A PUBLIC SAFETY HAZARD. PORTIONS OF OLD 30 IN THAT AREA ARE CITY RESPONSIBILITY AND PORTIONS ARE COUNTY HIGHWAY RESPONSIBILITY. TODAY THEY WILL BE GETTING THE WATER PUMPED AWAY FROM THE EDGE OF THE PAVEMENT FOR PUBLIC SAFETY. A DECISION WILL THEN BE MADE WITH THE CITY HOW TO REPLACE THE PIPE AND WHO WILL PAY FOR THAT.

LEVI EATON UPDATE

JIM MOYER SAID HE WILL BE DOING SOME ELEVATIONS AND GIVING SOME OPTIONS OF HOW THE TILE CAN BE DIVERTED TO THE TEEGARDEN AND RECONSTRUCTED.

TURKEY CREEK LOG JAM

CHAD DIPPON, A LANDOWNER ON TURKEY CREEK, MENTIONED THERE WAS A LOG JAM ON TURKEY CREEK WEST OF 200. HE USED HIS BACKHOE AND CLEARED THAT. HE SAID THERE IS ANOTHER LOG JAM EAST OF 200. MOYER SAID HE WOULD TAKE A LOOK AT THAT AND GET IT TAKEN CARE OF.

ADJOURN

BEING OF NO FURTHER BUSINESS JIM SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN. DENNIS DARR SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

CLAIMS

3/11/25			
CAUFFMAN	RANSBOTTOM EXCAVATING	\$1,883.39	2700
		\$6,232.61	1158
FAULKNER	BEECHY EXCAVATING	\$4,410.00	1158
FLEUGLE	DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS	\$85.86	1158
FLUKE HANSON	TIMBER VALLEY	\$300.00	2700

HUFFER DAVID	KLINE TRUCKING	\$800.00	2700
PETERSON MARTIN	RANSBOTTOM EXCAVATING	\$13,832.97	2700
		\$35,061.03	1158
PYLE JOHN	KLINE TRUCKING	\$6,662.50	2700
WALNUT CREEK	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,300.00	2700

MAINTENANCE: \$ 4,778.86
GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 45,789.50

3/25/2025

ARTHUR	KLINE TRUCKING	\$647.50	1158
BIERCE	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,870.00	1158
DORSEY MILTON	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,950.00	1158
FLEUGLE	TIMBER VALLEY	\$675.00	1158
GAY EASTERDAY ROBINSON	GOOD EXCAVATING	\$1,140.00	2700
GAY EASTERDAY ROBINSON	DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS	\$737.10	2700
HALL ISAAC	WARSAW WHOLESALE	\$304.80	1158
LECKRONE NELSON	KLINE TRUCKING	\$1,155.00	2700
LECKRONE NELSON	DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS	\$807.34	2700
METZGER JOSEPH	KLINE TRUCKING	\$660.00	2700
METZGER JOSEPH	KLINE TRUCKING	\$660.00	2700
METZGER JOSEPH	DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS	\$544.49	2700
PYLE JOHN	TIMBER VALLEY	\$787.50	2700
ROBINSON GA	LI EXCAVATING	\$1,090.00	2700
ROSS ALFRED	TIMBER VALLEY	\$2,100.00	2700
ROSS ALFRED	TIMBER VALLEY	\$675.00	2700
SWICK MEREDITH	LI EXCAVATING	\$14,345.00	2700
WALNUT CREEK	KLINE TRUCKING	\$4,400.00	2700
WALNUT CREEK	WERTENBERGER TILING	\$1,156.00	2700
WILLIAMSON SARAH	TIMBER VALLEY	\$830.00	2700
WILLIAMSON SARAH	WARSAW WHOLESALE	\$94.80	2700

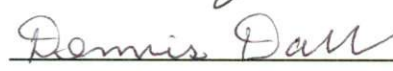
MAINTENANCE: \$ 31,182.23
GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 5,447.30

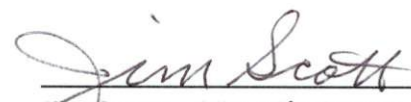
MARCH TOTALS

MAINTENANCE: \$ 35,961.09
GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 51,236.80

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD


 Cary Groninger – Chairman


 Dennis Darr


 Jim Scott – Vice Chairman


 Steve Metzger